

# By the Queene.



Here in the Parliament holden at Westminster, the seconde day of Apryl, in the xiii. yeere of the raigne of our soueraigne Lady the Queene, there was for the relife of diuers poore decayed townes, and of great multituds of her poore subiectes, who otherwise were likely to perishe, or to become vnprofitable and daungerous to the common weale, among other prouided & established, one good and beneficiall statute, entituled, An Act for the continuance of making of cappes. By meane of which statute, great numbers of idle, poore, and impotent persons were for a season set on woorke, whyle the aye of the sayd statute and feare of due execution thereof continued, to the marueylous great commoditie of this Realme, and helpe of the needie, and redresse of yll occupied persons, as by the experience thereof hath been manifestly proved. And whereas neuerthelesse by litle and litle, the disobedience and wanton disorder of euill disposed and lyght persons, more regardyng priuate fancies and vanitie, then publique commoditie or respect of duetie, hath encreased by want of execution of the sayde lawe, whereby those good & honest subiectes that haue by meanes of the sayde statute, set to woorke a great number of poore people, are like to be dryuen to geue ouer their sayd trade of making of cappes, and to sende abrode agayne into idlenesse and miserie, those multitudes that haue been by them releuued, whereby is lykely to growe great enormitie and inconuenience, ys speedye remedye therefore be not in tyme prouided. The Queenes most excellent maiestie therefore tenderly consydering the premisses, straightly chargeth and commaundeth al Justices of Assises, Justices of peace, Maiors, Sherrifffes, Baylyffes, and other head officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes corporate, and the Lordes, Stewardes, Baylyffes, and other officers of Leetes, Lawdayes, and Liberties, and all and singuler Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other her highnesse subiectes, to whom the executing or putting in bre of the same statute any way may apparteyn, that every one of them, according to his office, place, and callyng, do theyr btttermost endeuour for the due execution of the sayde statute: and that they the sayde Baylyffes, Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and all other inferiour officers, and every of them, doo every Sunday, and festiual day, make diligent viewe and search in al Churches, Chapels, and all other places within the circuites and compasses of theyr offices and authoritie, for al and singuler breakers and offendours of the sayde statute, and without delay cause the names of al suche offendours, and of the parentes, gardians, gouernours, and maisters of every chylde, seruaunt, and warde so offendyng, togeather with the day and place of the offence committed, to be then wrytten, and to be lawfully and orderly presented, at suche Assises, Sessions, or Courtes (next after suche offences) as haue authuritie to enquire or determine the sayd offences: And that al Maiors, Sherrifffes, and Baylyffes of Cities, Boroughes, & Townes Corporate, and al lordes of Leetes, Lawdayes, and Liberties, doo immediatly vpon the proclamation hereof, call before them al the sayde Constables, Thyrdboroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, inferiour Baylyffes, and al other the abovesaid inferiour officers, that shalbe vnder their charge of gouernement, and them, and euerie of them soorthwith in our names do straighly charge and commaund, that they, and every of them, to the btttermost of theyr powers, do every Sunday and festiual day, make suche diligent viewe and search, and suche note also of the names of al suche offendours, and such presentment of al such offences as is abovesaid: And that al Justices of Assises, and Justices of peace in theyr circuites and Sessions, and all Stewardes in theyr Leetes, vpon payne of her Maiesties hygh displeasure, omit not in any wise from tyme to tyme specialy to geue in charge, and cause to be enquired of all offences agaynst the sayde statute committed, or to be committed within theyr severall precinctes or iurisdictions, and also do duely heare and determine the same, punyshyng euerie of the sayde offendours accordyng to the sayde statute: And that al the sayde lordes and owners of Leetes and Lawdayes, do as muche as in euerie of them shall lye, to cause theyr Stewardes thoroughly to execute theyr office and authuritie, accordyng to the same statute, and that vpon every suche offence founde, both the sayde owners of leetes, and also the rulers and cheefe gouernours of every Citie, Borough, Towne, or Hamlet, where any suche offence shalbe tryed and founde, shall do theyr btttermost endeuour by the lawe to recover, haue, and obteyn of euerie such offendour, al the penalties to them, or any of them, by the sayde statute forseyted, or to be forseyted. April 29. Anno 14. 1. 2

God sau the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regis Maiestatis.